Immigration in the Gilded Age

America saw a boom in immigration from the time after the Civil War until the beginning of the 20th century. Previous to this time, many immigrants were what we refer to as W.A.S.P.s, or white, Anglo Saxon Protestant. During this period of immigration in the Gilded Age, many people came from Eastern and Southern Europe, bringing Catholicism with them as well. These immigrants were mostly shuffled into the city, going to the ghettos that their ethnicity controlled (Little Italy, China Town, etc.). They came to America to get away from foreign dictators, illnesses, and poverty. While some found opportunity in factories and other low paying positions, the roads were most definitely not paved with gold. The immigrants had been told they would come to a land of opportunity, where everyone was rich and prosperous. Instead, they were greeted by angry workers who feared for their jobs and bigoted families who feared for their safety. Among the immigrants, no group was discriminated more than the Chinese, and this led to a distinct drop in immigrants from Asian countries. While everything was not always ideal in this new country, it cannot be questioned that these immigrants stayed true to their dreams and built America to what it is today.